

1	2	3	4	5
24.	Uttar Pradesh	76	13	24
25.	West Bengal	70	4	3
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	-	1
27.	Chandigarh	1	1	1
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	-	-
29.	Delhi	17	3	5
30.	Daman & Diu	2	-	-
31.	Lakshadweep	1	-	-
32.	Pondicherry	1	-	1
Total		834	80	117

*No Employment Exchange is functioning in this State.

[English]

Ban on Gutka

*15. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

SHRI RAM NAIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the consumption of Gutka leads to incurable mouth diseases;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that the Government of Goa proposed to enact a legislation to ban the consumption of Gutka;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government also propose to ban the use of Gutka throughout the Country and also propose to give wide publicity in the electronic media etc; and

(d) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in regard to impose a ban on manufacturing and consumption of Gutka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) A high level Technical Committee of Experts constituted by the Government has recommended that systematic clinical/epidemiological studies should be carried out to ascertain the co-relation between consumption of Gutka and its adverse effects. Two proposals for carrying out such epidemiological and animal based studies to be conducted over a period of two to three years have been worked out by the experts. According to the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955, packages of Pan masala and chewing tobacco products are required to carry a statutory warning on the label. Further, with effect from November, 1990, the advertisement of Pan Masalas and Tobacco products has

been banned on Doordarshan and All India Radio.

The Food Health Authorities of States/UTs have been advised to educate the masses to discourage consumption of these products.

As per reports received from Government of Goa, enactment of legislation banning chewing/consumption of tobacco like Gutka, Zarda etc. in public places is under consideration of that Government.

Irregularities in Provident Fund Offices

*16. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale irregularities, persisting in Provident Fund Offices;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for speedy disposal of Provident Fund cases;

(c) whether the Government have provided any time frame for disposal of Provident Fund cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) There have been complaints relating to delay in settlement of PF Claims, non deposit of PF Contribution in the subscriber's account, non payment of pension on time etc. in the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Organisation.

(b) The EPF Organisation has set up 16 Regional Offices with 54 Sub-Regional Offices and 7 Sub-Accounts Offices for servicing the employees covered under the EPF & MP Act, 1952. These Offices have been directed to ensure speedy disposal of PF cases. For regular payment of pension, necessary arrangement has been made by the